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(71) Applicant and  
(72) Inventor: LUFFMAN, Charles, Raymond [GB/DE];  
Dorfstrasse 22B, 15910 Staakow (DE).

(74) Agent: LAURENCE SHAW & ASSOCIATES LIMITED; 1 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8TG (GB).

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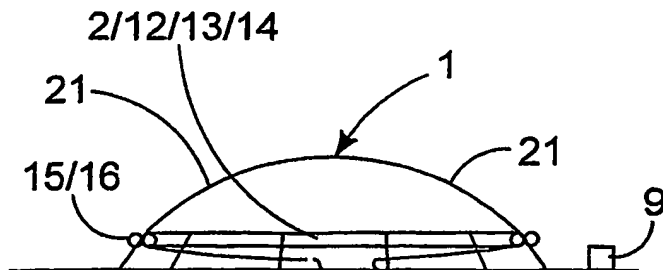
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(54) Title: AIRCRAFT



(57) Abstract: An aircraft comprising an envelope (6) that is inflatable with a lifting gas that is lighter than air that, at least when inflated has curved upper and lower surfaces. The aircraft has a payload carrying means (5), and an aerodynamic lifting means (8) for creating a vertical annular flow of air that induces a flow of air over the respective upper or lower surface (12, 14) of the envelope (6). One form of aerodynamic generator (8) comprises a plurality of aerofoil blades (20) mounted for rotation around a periphery of the envelope (6).

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